

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GEORGE 01102 261108Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AF-10 IO-13
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R 261032Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4704
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 1102

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAID, GY, YO
SUBJECT: GUYANA FOREIGN MINISTER COMMENTS ON VISIT TO YUGOSLAVIA

SUMMARY: A RESULT OF FONMIN WILLS' RECENT VISIT TO YUGO-
SLAVIA WAS THAT THE LATTER AGREED TO DEFER GUYANESE DEBT
PAYMENTS FROM JUNE 1977 UNTIL JUNE 1978, BUT NO BUDGET SUPPORT
WAS GIVEN. ACCORDING TO WILLS, GUYANA AND YUGOSLAVIA WILL
COOPERATE TO LIMIT CUBAN INFLUENCE IN THE NON-ALIGNED MOVE-
MENT, WITH YUGOSLAVIA SUPPORTING GUYANA'S BID TO BE THE
NAM'S WESTERN HEMISPHERE LEADER. THE YUGOSLAVS EXPRESSED
CONCERN THAT THE BELGRADE CONFERENCE MIGHT BOG DOWN OVER
THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING MEETINGS IN HIS OFFICE ON MAY 19 AND 21, FONMIN
WILLS BRIEFED ME ON RESULTS OF HIS TRIP TO YUGOSLAVIA. WILLS
TOUCHED ON A WIDE RANGE OF SUBJECTS. HOWEVER, ONLY A SUMMARY OF
HIS COMMENTS ON NON-ALIGNED MATTERS, DEBT RESCHEDULING AND THE
BELGRADE CONFERENCE WILL BE REPORTED HEREIN.

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2. NON-ALIGNED MATTERS. DURING HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH PRESI-
DENT TITO, FOREIGN MINISTER MINNICH, AND OTHER YUGOSLAV
OFFICIALS, WILLS SAID, THEY HAD AGREED THAT CUBA'S DRIVE FOR
LEADERSHIP IN THE NON-ALIGNED SHOULD BE CONTAINED. OTHER-
WISE, THE NON-ALIGNED WOULD BECOME SERIOUSLY DIVIDED.
CASTRO'S ACTIVITIES IN AFRICA WERE WORRISOME. AS A PART OF

THE EFFORT TO LIMIT CUBA'S INFLUENCE, FOREIGN MINISTER MINNICH WOULD COME TO GUYANA BEFORE THE HAVANA SUMMIT IN 1979 TO DEVELOP A COMMON STRATEGY. GUYANA WOULD ATTEMPT TO BECOME THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE LEADER OF THE NAM.

3. DEBT RESCHEDULING. WILLS SAID THE YUGOSLAVS HAD AGREED TO POSTPONE A DEBT PAYMENT WHICH WAS TO BE MADE IN JUNE 1977 UNTIL JUNE 1978. THAT WAS THE ONLY ECONOMIC BENEFIT OF THE VISIT. THE YUGOSLAVS WERE NOT IN A POSITION TO HELP GUYANA WITH ITS BALANCE OF PAYMENTS PROBLEMS. THE YUGOSLAVS HAD OFFERED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND HAD SUGGESTED THAT PERHAPS WILLS SHOULD TRY AGAIN TO OBTAIN MONEY FROM THE OPEC COUNTRIES FOR DEVELOPMENT OR BUDGET SUPPORT PURPOSES. WILLS SAID HE WOULD VISIT LIBYA AFTER THE COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE IN JUNE. THE DOOR WAS STILL OPEN FOR LIBYAN ASSISTANCE ALTHOUGH NO COMMITMENTS HAD BEEN MADE.

4. BELGRADE CONFERENCE. YUGOSLAVIA WILL SPEAK ON BEHALF OF THE DEVELOPING WORLD AT THE BELGRADE CONFERENCE. TITO WAS DETERMINED, WILLS SAID, NOT TO LET EUROPE EXPLODE INTO WAR AGAIN. THE YUGOSLAVS HAD TOLD WILLS THAT THE SOVIETS CONSIDER DETENTE AS A PHASE IN THE COMPETITION WITH THE CAPITALIST WORLD. THE SOVIETS HAVE NOT STOPPED BELIEVING THAT THEIR SYSTEM OF SOCIALISM WILL SUCCEED.

5. WILLS ALSO COMMENTED THAT THE TEN PRINCIPLES AGREED UPON AT HELSINKI WERE CONSIDERED IMPORTANT. HUMAN RIGHTS WAS ONE OF THEM AND SHOULD NOT BE DEEMPHASIZED; HOWEVER, HE SAID THAT THE YUGOSLAVS WERE WORRIED THAT THE BELGRADE CONFIDENTIAL

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CONFERENCE MIGHT BOG DOWN ON THIS ISSUE. THE YUGOSLAVS WERE SOMEWHAT PUZZLED AS TO HOW TO PROCEED. THEY WERE WORRIED ABOUT THE CONFERENCE.

6. PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS. WILLS COMMENTED THAT TITO APPEARED IN VERY GOOD HEALTH AND VERY ACTIVE. CONCERNING THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN YUGOSLAVIA WILLS SAID THAT TITO WAS USING HIS IMAGE AS FATHER OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT AND AS A WORLD WAR II PARTISAN HERO TO HOLD THE SYSTEM TOGETHER. YOUNG TURKS WERE PUSHING TITO FURTHER TO THE LEFT. THEY SUSPECT THAT TITO IS TOO PRO-AMERICAN. WILLS' IMPRESSIONS WAS THAT THE SERBS, OR IDEOLOGICAL "PURISTS" AS HE CALLED THEM, WERE TRYING TO PUSH TITO CLOSER TO THE SOVIET UNION. THE SLOVENES WERE MORE WESTERN EUROPEAN SOCIAL DEMOCRACY ORIENTED AND THE MACEDONIANS IN THE SOUTH AT BEST GAVE LIP SERVICE TO SOCIALISM.

7. COMMENT: MOST OF WILLS' OTHER COMMENTS WERE IMPRESSION-ISTIC AND WOULD HAVE TO BE INTERPRETED WITH HIS "ATTITUDINAL

FILTER" IN MIND. HE THOUGHT THAT HIS YUGOSLAV HOSTS WERE
"NAIVE" ABOUT THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE. FOR EXAMPLE, HE
CONSIDERED THEIR ATTEMPTS TO INCORPORATE MEXICO INTO THE
NAM TO BE FUTILE.
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